



Motor Vehicle Use Mapping (MVUM)

Frequently Asked Questions

October 2, 2007

1. *What is the Travel Management Rule?*

- In 2005 the Forest Service published a new rule for providing motor vehicle use on ALL National Forests. The rule requires each National Forest to designate those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicles.
- Designation will include class of vehicle and, if appropriate, time of year for motor vehicle use. A given route, for example, could be designated for use by motorcycles, ATV's, or street-legal vehicles. Once designation is complete, the rule will prohibit motor vehicle use off the designated system or inconsistent with the designations.

2. *Why is there a Travel Management Rule?*

- There has been a tremendous increase in the number of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) sales in the US in the last decade.
- While OHV use is a legitimate recreation activity on the National Forest, the Chief of the Forest Service determined that unmanaged recreation is one of the four major threats to the health of National Forest and Grasslands. Erosion, user conflicts, spread of invasive species, damage to cultural sites, disturbance to wildlife, destruction of wildlife habitat, and risks to public safety can result from unmanaged recreation, including cross-country OHV use. (The other 3 threats are fire and fuels, invasive species, and loss of open space).
- On the Hiawatha we are continually rehabilitating user-developed trails and resource damage from illegal OHV use. Many of those funds come from Michigan OHV grants through fees collected for OHV stickers.

3. *Does it just cover ATVs and ORVs?*

- No the rule covers all motor vehicles including cars, trucks, ORVs, motorcycles, etc.

4. *How does the Forest Service define OHV?*

Any motor vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. Unless otherwise authorized on the Motor Vehicle Use Map, OHV use on the Hiawatha is restricted to ATVs, multi-passenger ATVs, and motorcycles.

5. *Will snowmobile use be affected on the Hiawatha?*

- There will be no change to snowmobile use on the Hiawatha. You can ride snowmobiles anywhere on the Hiawatha National Forest except closed areas such as wilderness and designated non-motorized areas.

6. *What is the Motor Vehicle Use Map ?*

- The motor vehicle use map shows which class/es of motor vehicle and seasonal restrictions apply for each designated road, trail and area on the Forest.

7. *When will it be published and where can I get a map?*

- The maps are currently available on our Website.
- Printed maps will be available October 2007.
- The new rules will take effect immediately.

8. *Will there be a charge for the map?*

- No, the map is free.

9. *Will there be a big change on the Hiawatha on where I can ride my OHV or drive a motor vehicle?*
- Generally no. Since 1986 the Hiawatha has had a designated system of roads, trails and areas. Cross country travel has not been permitted since 1986. The MVUM reflects the existing condition on the Forest.
10. *What about the old rule of if the road sign is vertical I can ride on it and if it is horizontal I can't unless otherwise posted?*
- That rule will no longer be valid. It is the responsibility of the user to use the MVUM to know whether they are on the designated system.
11. *Was the Public involved in this process?*
- Motor vehicle use was a significant issue in developing the 2006 revised Forest Plan. Numerous meetings were held in the UP and throughout Michigan soliciting public comment. We continue dialog with the public on this issue.
12. *Can the designated routes, trails and areas be changed in the future?*
- Yes. The designated system can be changed. All changes in designation will require travel and environmental analysis to determine if the change is safe or will have impacts to water, soil wildlife, etc.
 - We will be working with the public and various groups in the years to come to design the system to meet both the public and FS needs.
 - A new map will be published each year as required by the rule.
13. *Can I ride my OHV to retrieve a deer or go to my hunting blind?*
- No. You can only ride on designated roads, trails and areas. Cross country travel is not allowed and has not been allowed since 1986.
14. *I am disabled can I get a special permit to ride my OHV off the designated system?*
- No. There is no provision for special permits to ride off the designated system (even for hunting) on National Forests. The State does have such a program for State land – contact the Michigan DNR.
15. *Who can I contact with questions or comments?*
- Call or stop in any Forest Service office.
16. *Where are the trails?*
- The Hiawatha has only two designated OHV trails, the Coalwood Grade Trail on the Munising district and the Haywire Grade Trail on the Rapid River/Manistique and Munising district. These trails are open to all motor vehicles including OHVs and the two person OHVs. They are closed to OHVs in the winter because they are snowmobile trails.
 - There are over two thousand miles of roads open to OHV riding on the Hiawatha.
 - There are numerous trails run by the State that are open to OHVs and motorcycles. Contact the State for more information.
17. *Can I ride on county roads?*
- You can ride on all county roads within the Hiawatha National Forest. You must ride on the shoulder of the road and not in the ditch or on the pavement.
18. *Can I ride on the snowmobile trails?*
- Only if the snowmobile trail is on a designated road during the summer months. You cannot ride on the snowmobile or ski trails in the winter.
19. *Can I ride on roads that do not have a FS route marker?*
- No, that would be considered cross country travel. Many of those are old skid trails that are not part of the FS transportation system